

IV. REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application.

Applicants respectfully submit this Preliminary Amendment further to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers mailed May 28, 2004 in connection with this application. In the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers, the Initial Patent Examination Division has indicated that the drawings filed in this application are unacceptable and that replacement drawings are required. Accordingly, Applicants have filed a Response to Notice to File Corrected Application Papers and this Preliminary Amendment with replacement drawings. Applicants have in this Preliminary Amendment formally deleted the originally filed drawings and substituted therefore the replacement drawings as well as amended the specification to reflect the numbering of the figures in the replacement drawings.

In particular, Applicants have hereinabove deleted originally filed Figures 1, 2A-2D, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B and 5 and substituted therefor the replacement drawings which include Figures 1, 2A1-2A12, 2B1-2B12, 2C1-2C4, 2D1-2D4, 3A1-3A6, 3B1-3B6, 4A, 4B and 5. Figures 2A-2D, 3A and 3B are now Figures 2A1-2A12, 2B1-2B12, 2C1-2C4, 2D1-2D4, 3A1-3A6 and 3B1-3B6. No new matter has been added in the replacement drawings.

As stated above, Applicants have also hereinabove amended the specification to reflect the numbering of the figures in the replacement drawings. In particular, paragraphs [0020], [0021], [0125] and [0126] have been amended to reflect the

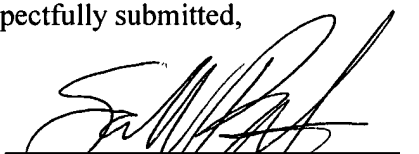
numbering of the figures in the replacement drawings. No new matter has been added in the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Samir R. Patel – Reg. No. 44,998
Attorney for Applicants

bioMérieux, Inc.
Patent Department
100 Rodolphe Street
Durham, NC 27712
919-620-2914